

COMMUNICATION FROM BOARD
MEMBER OF THE OFFICE OF
CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Governing Board of the Office of Congressional Ethics:

Flagstaff, AZ, December 2, 2022.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: It has been an honor and a privilege to serve on the Office of Congressional Ethics Board for the last 14 years. It is time for me to step down. I would like to be appointed to the alternate position at this time and switch positions with Bill Luther who was recently appointed to the Board.

I have had the opportunity to serve with many extraordinary members who recognized the appointment as an important and non-partisan role to the Congress.

Thank you,

KARAN L. ENGLISH.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUALS
TO THE GOVERNING BOARD OF
THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL
ETHICS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 4(c) of House Resolution 8, 117th Congress, and the order of the House of January 4, 2021, of the following individuals to serve on the Governing Board of the Office of Congressional Ethics:

Nominated by the Speaker after consultation with the Minority Leader:

Mr. William Paul Luther, Minnesota, for the remainder of the term of Ms. Karan English.

Ms. Karan English, Arizona, alternate, for the remainder of the term as alternate of Mr. William Paul Luther.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION
REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise a very proud, liberated Democrat, unbought, unbossed, and unafraid. I am proud to say that, today, I will address the question of comprehensive immigration reform.

But before moving into this question of comprehensive immigration reform, I thank those who make it possible for me to have these opportunities to speak. I thank the Speaker of the House. I thank all the persons who are in leadership. I am grateful for the opportunity because this is a means by which messages can be made known to the masses. Many of the masses would not receive these messages but for what they hear from the floor of the House of Representatives.

I am honored to represent the Ninth Congressional District in Texas, and I am honored to thank those who allowed me to serve previously and who are allowing me to serve for an additional 2 years in the Congress of the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, immigration reform is exceedingly important for many reasons. I will speak to one reason that is exceedingly important today, but I in no way want people to conclude that I am not concerned about what is happening at the border, that I am not concerned about ingress and egress into the country.

I wouldn't want people to think that I don't believe we need to know who is coming into the country, who is leaving the country. All of these things are important. I am concerned about them. But I am also concerned about them in a comprehensive way. I don't believe that we should try to do a patchwork fix of what is happening with immigration.

I think that we look at it from a holistic approach, and if we do, we will have an immigration bill that we can be proud of, that can deal with many of the nuances that are not brought to the attention of the public with any degree of regularity.

We tend to focus more on the border than on other aspects of immigration reform. Today, I will focus on an aspect of it that is somewhat different from the border itself and people who find themselves crossing the border for many reasons—many with good reasons, I might add.

Today, I would like to talk about Mr. Jaime Avalos Rosales. Mr. Jaime Avalos Rosales was born on November 25, 1994, some 28 years ago, in Oaxaca, Mexico.

Mr. Avalos was brought to this country as a baby. He was about 1 year of age at the time that he was brought into the country.

He has lived in this country for more than a quarter of a century. He is a graduate of a high school in this country, in Houston, Texas, Bellaire High School. He worked in Houston, Texas.

Mr. Avalos married an American-born woman and has a son. His wife, Yariana Martinez, and he have a young son, Noah Blake Avalos. This beautiful young baby is currently with his mother in Houston, Texas.

Mr. Avalos has been banned from the country and is in Juarez, Mexico, banned from the country for a period of 10 years.

This is why I rise today to give some intelligence on what has happened to cause Mr. Avalos to find himself in this predicament of being banned from the country for a period of 10 years.

Mr. Avalos, living in this country as a DACA recipient, working, not having committed a crime, decided that it would be appropriate to become a lawful citizen in the country. He was here undocumented. He wanted to do what was right for himself, but, more importantly, for his baby, Noah, and his wife.

He and his wife conferred, and they concluded, after having conferred with persons who were supposed to know, that he should return to Mexico, to Juarez, to the consulate there, and that he would apply for his visa to return to this country. Go to Mexico,

Juarez, and apply for a visa to return to this country lawfully.

By the way, he made an appointment to go to Juarez, Mexico. He made an appointment to go there to the consulate. This is the way it is done. You make an appointment; you go there; you make your application to return lawfully into the country as a person with a visa. He did this.

He had no reason to leave the country other than to do this. He loves this country. He has been a hardworking person. Moralistically speaking, he is an American, but he does not have the documentation that would make him an American in the eyes of the laws of this country.

So, he leaves this country, leaves his wife, leaves his baby, goes to Juarez, and makes application.

Upon making application, it is discovered that Mr. Avalos was brought to Mexico at the age of 7 from the United States to Mexico for a purpose of having his birth properly registered in Mexico. So, he leaves the United States, not of his own volition, but in the arms of his mother who takes him to Mexico to register his birth.

Upon registering his birth, he comes back to this country. He has been in this country for decades, more than a quarter of a century.

Upon going to Juarez to register, they discover that he was brought to Mexico for this purpose, one time, leaving the country, going to Mexico to have his birth registered.

There is a law on our books indicating that if you are in this country for more than 365 days, and if you leave after more than 365 days, you cannot return for a period of 10 years.

That is the ban that Mr. Avalos finds himself having to suffer from.

He left, but he left in the arms of his mother. He left as a 7-year-old child. In fact, he was taken out of the country. This was not something that he did of his own volition. He has no recollection of having done it. Having no recollection of it, he didn't call it to anyone's attention because he, quite frankly, didn't recall the circumstance having occurred.

But having done this, the consulate and the officials there, whom I visited with, concluded that he was subject to this 10-year ban because he came back at the age of 7 to have his birth registered. This, literally, is why he is banned from the country.

I, along with staff members, his wife, and his lawyer, Attorney Salem, we went to Mexico to visit Mr. Avalos.

He is my constituent. I do this. He is not the first constituent that I have had to go to Mexico to visit. We had a Mr. Escobar who was in El Salvador. I went there. I saw him. We eventually brought him home.

My intentionality is to bring Mr. Avalos home. It may not happen as soon as I would like, but we will bring Mr. Avalos home. This is an injustice.

I took staff, his wife, baby Noah, and his lawyer to Mexico. We went there to